GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3425
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
SPREAD OF ENCEPHALITIS IN NORTHERN STATES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of encephalitis have surfaced in various parts of the country, especially in the Northern States during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b). The cases of Japanese Encephalitis(JE)/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) are being reported only from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in so far as Northern States are concerned. However, the reports of AES/JE cases are also being received from other States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Nagaland. State wise details of AES/JE cases and deaths since 2003 are at Annexure.

J.E. is an acute viral disease and cyclic outbreaks are known to occur.The occurrence of the disease is determined by factors like rainfall, temperature, humidity,presence of amplifier hosts, etc. The disease is mainly correlated with the monsoon & post monsoon season, when mosquito breeding increases.There is no specific anti viral drugs for treatment of JE.

(c) The actions taken by the Government in this regard are as under:

Early diagnosis and proper management of AES cases to reduce case fatality through strengthening of diagnostic and clinical management of JE cases, and curative services at PHCs/CHCs and District Hospitals.

Training of PHC Medical Officer, Clinicians and nurses for early diagnosis and case management of JE.

Advisories along with standard guidelines/protocols on AES/JE cases management have been developed and conveyed to the State Governments.

Rapid Response Teams were formed at districts level and they have been trained.

Integrated vector control with emphasis on personal protection, segregation/mosquito proofing of pig-sties.

Behaviour Change Communication for community participation to promote early case reporting, personal protection, isolation of amplifier host etc.

A Sub office of Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare, Lucknow, has been established in Gorakhpur, UP since 2nd April,2007 for intensive monitoring of situation and providing technical assistance to State Government on prevention and control of JE.

Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Unit has been established at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, UP with financial support from Government of India for field visits and for strengthening of surveillance activities.

Preparedness for prevention and control of AES/JE is reviewed regularly at higher levels.

Vaccination of community with SA 14-14-2 for JE has been undertaken in 7 districts of Gorakhpur during 2006-07. During 2007, 11 districts were covered under vaccination achieving an over all coverage percentage of 97 percent.Nine more districts are proposed to be taken up during 2008.

Adequate drugs and disposables for the management of AES/J.E. cases are supplied by the Government of India.

Multi-disciplinary Central teams comprising of Neurologist, epidemiologist, microbiologist and entomologist visited the affected States (Uttar Pradesh and Assam) during 2007 for providing technical guidance. Based upon their observations and recommendations, control measures were stepped up.

Regular monitoring of AES cases is done by the Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).